

The third typhoon of the season, Ora, was small and short lived. Ora first appeared as a weak circulation in the near equatorial trough (drawn north by the influence of Typhoon Nina and T.D. 05) during the evening of the 8th. During the next 30 hr, this weak circulation moved northwestward at 6 kt showing little intensification.

On the morning of the 10th, a rapidly moving upper-level trough in the mid-latitude westerlies was located to the northwest of the circulation. This trough provided a highly efficient high altitude outflow channel which allowed Ora to grow from a tropical depression (Fig. 4-4) into a typhoon within 30 hr. As this trough moved quickly toward the east, Ora responded with a north-northeastward movement. When Ora's eye passed over Miyako Jima at 0600Z on the 11th, (Fig. 4-5) the weather station recorded 5 kt surface winds and a minimum pressure of 976 mb. Simultaneously, a ship (JL 11) 120 nm to the east reported 55 kt sustained winds.



FIGURE 4-4. Ora attaining tropical storm intensity 190 nm south of Miyako Jima with upper level trough to the west, 10 August 1975, 0033Z. (DMSP imagery)

At 0749Z on the 11th, 50 kt gusts were recorded at Kadena AB, Okinawa, 150 nm northeast of Ora. As the trough passed to the east, the subtropical high over central China built rapidly eastward and Ora shifted northwestward and accelerated to 15 kt. By the morning of the 12th, Ora had turned westward at 13 kt until landfall was made on the 12th at 0800Z near Yung-chia on the central China coast.

From 0000Z on the 11th, until striking the China coast, Ora maintained typhoon strength winds of 65 kt. A surface high pressure cell moving eastward from the sea of Japan into the North Pacific, rendered Ora a highly asymmetric storm with 30 kt winds extending 300 nm to the northeast and only 150 nm to the southwest. Although little destruction was directly attributed to Ora, monsoon rains were spawned over the Philippines and caused widespread flooding and landslides. Choppy waters near Tacloban, Leyte capsized a crowded motorboat leaving 15 dead and 30 missing.

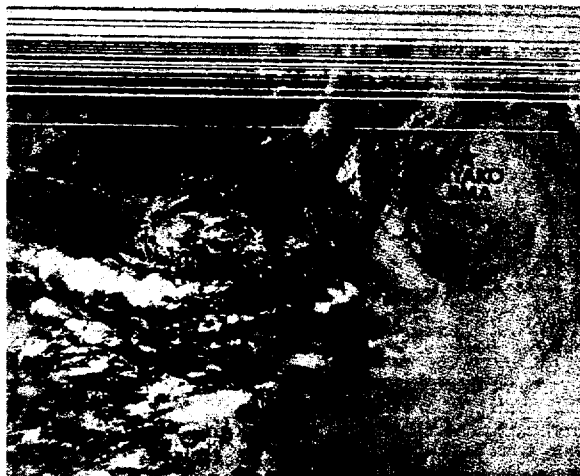


FIGURE 4-5. Tropical Storm Ora 60 nm south of Miyako Jima just prior to reaching typhoon intensity, 11 August 1975, 0015Z. (DMSP imagery)